(b) to (d) The tele-density in rural and urban areas of Rajasthan as on 31-12-2005 is 1.56% and 30.58% respectively. Telecom service providers are not going for faster roll out in rural areas mainly because of commercial unviability of providing communication infrastructure in rural areas.

(e) As on 31-12-2005, 10,923 villages in Rajasthan have been provided with VPTs using Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) technology and 8,054 eligible villages remain to be provided with VPTs.

(f) As per terms and conditions of the agreement signed between USOF and BSNL, the balance 8,054 villages are to be provided with VPT facility progressively by November, 2007.

FDI in Information Technology

728. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated growth in FDI in manufacturing side of the Information Technology Sector; and

(b) the major equipment manufacturing units expected to be established in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The FDI inflow in the area of 'computer hardware' sector has increased from Rs. 7.35 Crores (2004) to Rs. 52 Crores (2005), recording a growth of about 600 per cent.

(b) As per the information currently available, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is expected from the following major equipment manufacturing units:

(i) Ericsson

(ii) LG

(iii) Nokia

(iv) Alcatel

(v) Samsung

(vi) Siemens (vii)

Foxconn (viii)

Flextronics (ix)

Elcoteq

Post Offices in Punjab

729. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices functioning in Punjab as on date;

(b) the number of new post offices proposed to be opened during the year in the State;

(c) the reasons for not opening them; and

(d) by when they would be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There are 3951 Post Offices functioning in Punjab as on date.

(b) to (d) In consonance with the policy directives of the 10th Five Year Plan, no plan targets for opening of Post Offices have been allotted to Punjab Postal Circle in the year 2005-06. However justified Post Offices are opened by relocating those post offices which do not comply with the norms prescribed by the Department. Since this is an ongoing process no time limit can be prescribed for opening of new post offices in this manner.

Changes in Cyber Laws

730. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is of the view that the time has come to carry out amendments to the cyber laws to plug the loopholes with regard to illegal transfer of data and data secrecy;